# The sign of kurtosis within finite system near the QCD critical point\*

Shanjin Wu<sup>1,†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Nuclear Science and Technology, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, China

The sign of higher order multiplicity fluctuations is a very important quantity in exploring the QCD phase transition. It is found that the kurtosis of net-baryon is typically negative in the simulations of the dynamics of conserved net-baryon density near the QCD critical point. This paper considers the effects of finite size on the multiplicity fluctuations with equilibrium critical fluctuations. It is found that the multiplicity fluctuations (or magnitude of correlation function  $D_{ij}$ ) are dramatically suppressed with decreasing system size when the size of the system is small comparing correlation length, which is the so-called acceptance dependence. Consequently, the small correlation function of the small system size results in the magnitude of the negative contribution ( $\sim D_{ij}^4$ ) in the four-point correlation function dominates over the one of positive term ( $\sim D_{ij}^5$ ), and this finite size effects induces a dip structure near the QCD critical point.

Keywords: Relativistic heavy-ion collisions, QCD phase transition, Multiplicity fluctuations, Finite-size effects

### I. INTRODUCTION

Exploring the Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) phase structure is one of the most important topics in high-energy nuclear physics. Simulations by lattice QCD reveal that the transition from the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) phase to the hadron phase is a crossover at vanishing baryon chemical potential ( $\mu \simeq 0$ ) [1–4]. On the other hand, the effective theories based on QCD predict that this transition is a first-order phase transition at finite chemical potential [5–10]. Therefore, it is natural to conjecture the existence of a QCD critical point between the crossover and first-order phase transition [11, 12].

The characteristic feature of the critical point is the long-13 range correlation and large fluctuations. After being created in relativistic heavy-ion collisions, the QGP fireball scans the 15 QCD phase diagram during the evolving process and may 16 touch the critical region. Such fluctuating effects may imprint the final observable of the heavy-ion experiments. It 18 was conjectured that the non-monotonic behavior as a func-19 tion of collision energy can be regarded as one of the signa-20 tures of the critical point [13, 14, 16]. The first phase Beam 21 Energy Scan (BES-I) program at RHIC has been performed scan the QCD phase diagram by tuning the collision en-23 ergy [15]. Preliminary measurement of the net-proton multi-24 plicity fluctuations has shown such non-monotonic behavior with the energy range from 7.7 to 200 GeV [17, 18]. How-26 ever, the statistics of the BES-I program are insufficient to conclude the observation of the non-monotonic behavior, and it requires much higher statistics in the coming second phase of BES and FIX target measurements (See *e.g.*, Refs [19, 20] for reviews). 30

Theoretically, the QGP fireball created in relativistic heavy-ion collisions is a complex system and several effects may have an impact on the final behavior of the net-proton multiplicity fluctuations. For instance, due to the rapidly expanding effect, the multiplicity fluctuations may deviate from

the equilibrium ones. By considering the dynamical effects induced by the expanding QGP fireball, people found that the magnitude of the fluctuations can be suppressed [21, 22], the sign can be reversed [23], the maximum of the fluctuations can be moved from the critical point [24]. Therefore, remarkable progress has been achieved in developing the dynami-decal model near the QCD critical point. For example, the dynamics of the conserved variables (charge, net-baryon) have been developed [25–29] and non-monotonic behavior of the fluctuations with respective to the increasing rapidity acceptance window have been observed [25, 28, 29]. Please see e.g., Refs. [30–36] for recent reviews.

In particular, the signs of the multiplicity fluctuations are 49 important in exploring the phase structure in heavy-ion exper-50 iments. Comparing its magnitude the signs can be regarded 51 as more obvious signatures of the phase transition [14, 37]. It 52 was predicted the non-trivial behavior of the signs of higher 53 order cumulants or moments of conserved quantities near the QCD critical point [14, 37]. By developing the dynamical 55 model near the QCD critical point, it was found that the crit-56 ical slowing down effects may flip the signs of higher order 57 cumulants [23]. Remarkably, the fourth-order cumulants (or 58 kurtosis) of the multiplicity fluctuations in these conserved 59 dynamical models are typically negative [26–29]. This is hard 60 to achieve with only critical slowing down effects. Because 61 the corresponding memory effects preserve the sign of the 62 static kurtosis above the phase transition curve, which is not 63 always negative [23]. Thus, the sign of kurtosis has not been 64 fully understood yet in such a comprehensive and complex simulation of the conserved dynamical models. This work focuses on the study of the impacts from one of the factors in 67 the conserved dynamical simulation, i.e., finite size effects, on 68 the sign of kurtosis. In the realistic experiment detection with a finite range of acceptance, only part of the system has been collected. This corresponds to the finite size of the system and also the kurtosis is obtained within finite volume in the 72 dynamical models. To understand the typically negative kurtosis near the critical point in the dynamical conserved mod-74 els, this work is dedicated to pointing out that the finite size 75 of the detected system may also modify the sign of kurtosis, 76 by considering the finite volume when calculating the multi-77 plicity fluctuations in a static system.

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<sup>†</sup> Corresponding author, shanjinwu@lzu.edu.cn

# MULTIPLICITY FLUCTUATIONS WITHIN FINITE SIZE SYSTEM

Near the phase transition, thermal variables (this work focuses on baryon density  $n_B$ ) strongly fluctuate and the cor-82 responding partition function can be written as the Ginzburg-Landau form [26–29]:

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$$Z[\mu] = \int Dn_B \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{T} \int d^3x \left[\frac{m^2}{2}n_B^2 + \frac{K}{2}(\nabla n_B)^2 + \frac{\lambda_3}{3}n_B^3 + \frac{\lambda_4}{4}n_B^4 + \mu n_B\right]\right\},$$
 (1)

where T is temperature. The kinetic term with surface ten- $87 ext{ sion } K ext{ is a measure for the range of the interaction as well}$ as nonlinear interaction terms.  $m = \sqrt{K/\xi}$  is inversely pro-89 portional to the correlation length  $\xi$ .  $\lambda_3$  and  $\lambda_4$  are the coupling constants for three- and four-point correlation, respectively. In relativistic heavy-ion experiments, susceptibility of conserved quantity is regarded as the sensitive observable to 93 the QCD phase transition [30, 37–39], because they represent 94 the magnitude of the response of the systems against external 95 force and therefore encodes the correlation between the particles in the system. In particular, people are more interested in the susceptibility of the conserved thermal quantities, such as charge or net-baryon, as they can be obtained unambiguously 99 from the partition function or the grand potential by taking 100 derivatives:

$$\chi_n = \frac{\partial^n P}{\partial u^n},\tag{2}$$

102 where the pressure has the form

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$$P = \frac{T}{V} \ln Z. \tag{3}$$

where V is the volume of the system.

The second-order baryon number susceptibility is propor-106 tional to the two-point correlator:

$$\chi_2 = \frac{V}{T} (\langle n_B^2 \rangle - \langle n_B \rangle^2), \tag{4}$$

where  $\langle \cdots \rangle$  denotes the event-by-event averaging. While the 109 average of the correlator over the coordinate space is evalu-110 ated with a finite volume

$$\langle n_B^2 \rangle = V^{-2} \int_V d^3 x_1 d^3 x_2 \langle n_B(x_1) n_B(x_2) \rangle. \tag{5}$$

ume V. Note that  $\langle n_B \rangle = 0$  can be obtained from Eq.(1). The 161 from Eq.(1):

114 correlation function  $\langle n_B(x_1)n_B(x_2)\rangle$  can be evaluated with

$$\langle n_B(\mathbf{x}_1) n_B(\mathbf{x}_2) \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial \mu^2} = \frac{T}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3 p \frac{e^{i\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)}}{K\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2},$$
(6)

116 This is the Ornstein-Zernicke form of the correlation function. 117 In the dynamics of the conserved baryon density [26–29], the partition function in Eq.(1) is treated as the effective potential in the stochastic diffusion equation. In the linear limit, the dynamical correlation function can be extended as [40]

$$T\int \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{12} \frac{\langle n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_1)n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_2)\rangle}{\langle n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_1)n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_2)\rangle} + \frac{\lambda_3}{3}n_B^3 + \frac{\lambda_4}{4}n_B^4 + \mu n_B \Big] \Big\}, \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{T}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3p \frac{e^{i\boldsymbol{p}(\boldsymbol{x}_1 - \boldsymbol{x}_2)}}{K\boldsymbol{p}^2 + m^2} \exp[-Dt\boldsymbol{p}^2(K\boldsymbol{p}^2 + m^2)],$$
The kinetic term with surface ten.

where the factor  $\exp[-Dtp^2(Kp^2+m^2)]$  is introduced to describe the diffusion of the correlation function as a function of time t, and D is the diffusion coefficient. This factor is 126 introduced merely to take into account the dynamical effects 127 in such a static model and it does not change the following analysis. If the dynamical factor  $\exp[-Dt\boldsymbol{p}^2(K\boldsymbol{p}^2+m^2)]$ been neglected, the spatial integration in Eq. (5) is performed in spherical coordinate with radii R, and it takes the following 131 form:

$$\langle n_B^2 \rangle = \frac{T}{V} \frac{1}{K} \left[ \xi^2 (1 - e^{-R/\xi}) - R\xi e^{-R/\xi} \right].$$
 (8)

133 In the limit of the infinite large volume  $R \gg \xi$ , the second 134 order baryon number susceptibility approaches to correlation length  $\chi_2 \to \xi^2$ . This means that the susceptibility of the 136 system is only determined by the correlation length  $\xi$ , not (2)  $^{137}$  the size of the system R. This reproduces the previous result in Ref. [13]. It can be understood that the number of corre-139 lated particles is determined by  $\xi$ . The particles beyond the 140 correlation length  $\xi$  are uncorrelated and do not contribute to 141 the value of susceptibility. On the other hand, in the limit of small size  $R \ll \xi$ , the second order baryon number suscep-(3) 143 tibility approaches the system size  $\chi_2 \to R^2/\sqrt{K}$ . In this 144 limit, the susceptibility of the system strongly enhances with 145 the increasing size of the system. This is the so-called acceptance dependence, which has been proposed [41, 42] and observed in experiments [43]. This can be regarded as another indicator of the long-range correlation. When the susceptibil- $_{149}$  ity obtained within a scale R is smaller than the correlation 150 length  $\xi$ , all the particles detected are correlated with each  $_{151}$  other. The increasing size R means more particles correlated and contribute to the susceptibility.

Higher order susceptibilities are important observables for the searching QCD critical point because they are more sensitive to the correlation length and their signs are more obvious observables than the magnitudes considering the com-157 plex system in relativistic heavy-ion collisions [13, 37]. The 158 fourth-order susceptibility is given by

$$\chi_4 = \frac{\partial^4 P}{\partial \mu^4} = \left(\frac{V}{T}\right)^4 [\langle n_B^4 \rangle - 3\langle n_B^2 \rangle^2],\tag{9}$$

112 Namely, the spatial integration is performed within finite vol- 160 where the four-point correlation function can be calculated

$$\langle n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_1) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_2) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_3) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_4) \rangle$$

$$= -6\lambda_4 T^3 \int d^3z \prod_{i=1}^4 D_{zi} + 12\lambda_3^2 T^3 \int d^3u d^3v D_{u1} D_{u1} D_{v3} D_{v4} D_{uv} + T^2 (D_{12} D_{34} + D_{13} D_{24} + D_{14} D_{23})$$
 (10)

the two-point correlator is defined 165  $\langle n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_i) n_B(\boldsymbol{x}_i) \rangle \equiv$  $TD_{ij}$ . As this work focuses the 166 on the susceptibility, disconnected diagrams 167  $T^2(D_{12}D_{34} + D_{13}D_{24} + D_{14}D_{23})$  will be canceled 168 due to the subtraction term in Eq. (9). The spatial average of the four-point correlation function Eq. (10) is also evaluated the four-point correlation function fu 170 with finite volume. Please see Appendix A for the detailed 171 expression. The integration can not be performed analytically and evaluated numerically instead in this work.

#### PARAMETERIZATION AND DISCUSSION

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To evaluate various orders of cumulants (or susceptibil-175 ity) near the QCD critical point, it requires the behavior of 176 correlation length  $\xi$ , coupling constants  $\lambda_3$  and  $\lambda_4$ . Lattice 177 QCD suffers sign problem at large chemical potential [12], and the results in the effective theories based on QCD depend on the input parameters. On the other hand, the system near 180 the QCD critical point is believed to belong to the same uni- 200 181 versality class with three three-dimensional Ising (3D Ising) model [44–46]. Therefore, the equation of state as well as the 183 coupling constants near the QCD critical point can be mapped 202 with which, various orders of Ising susceptibilities can be ob-184 from the 3D Ising model.

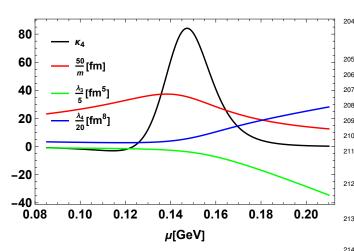


Fig. 1. (Color online) The coupling constants of the effective potential near the critical point, mapped from the 3D Ising model.

model [26–29], the coupling constants are related to the net- 220 ative position to the critical point in the QCD phase diagram,

as 187 baryon susceptibility in the zero mode limit:

$$\kappa_2 = \frac{V}{T} \langle n_B^2 \rangle = m^{-2}, \kappa_3 = \left(\frac{V}{T}\right)^2 \langle n_B^3 \rangle = -2\lambda_3 m^{-6},$$

$$\kappa_4 = \left(\frac{V}{T}\right)^3 [\langle n_B^4 \rangle - 3\langle n_B^2 \rangle^2] = 6[2(\lambda_3/m)^2 - \lambda_4] m^{-8}.$$
(11)

190 And the net-baryon susceptibilities are mapped from the ones 191 of the 3D Ising model:

$$\kappa_n = T^{4-n} \kappa_n^{\text{Ising}}, \tag{12}$$

where the mapping coefficient is non-universal and  $T^{4-n}$  is 194 chosen according to the dimensional of the baryon suscepti-195 bility. In the equation of state for the 3D Ising model, the  $^{196}$  magnetization M of the Ising system is a function of the re- $_{
m 197}$  duced temperature r and the external magnetic field h and can 198 be parameterized as [22]:

$$M = M_0 \tilde{R}^{1/3} \theta,$$
  
 $r = h_0 \tilde{R} (1 - \theta^2),$   
 $h = \tilde{R}^{5/3} (3\theta - 2\theta^3).$  (13)

203 tained by

$$\kappa_{n+1}^{\text{Ising}} = \frac{\partial^n M}{\partial h^n} \bigg|_r, \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \cdots$$
(14)

205 Where  $\tilde{R}$  is the distance to the critical point on the phase di-206 agram, and  $\theta$  is the corresponding angle with respect to the 207 crossover curve.  $M_0$  and  $h_0$  are normalization constants:  $_{208}~M_{0}~\simeq~0.605, h_{0}~\simeq~0.394.$  In addition, the reduced tem- $_{209}$  perature r and the external magnetic field h are related to the 210 temperature T and baryon chemical potential  $\mu$  of QCD system through the linear mapping [23, 24, 29]:

$$\frac{r}{\Delta r} = -\frac{\mu - \mu_c}{\Delta \mu},$$

$$\frac{h}{\Delta h} = \frac{T - T_c}{\Delta T}.$$
(15)

where  $T_c$  and  $\mu_c$  are the critical temperature and chemical 215 potential of the QCD critical point, respectively. The critical point of 3D Ising model locates at r = h = 0. The map-217 ping does not constraint the location of QCD critical point  $(T_c, \mu_c)$ , which are typically treated as free parameters. The To be more specific, in the conserved dynamical 219 behavior of the critical fluctuations are determined by the rel222 critical point  $(T_c, \mu_c)$  does not affect the qualitative behavior 260 and/or t in this model only impact the critical value of sys-223 of  $\kappa\sigma^2$  and are set as  $(T_c, \mu_c) = (0.145 \text{ GeV}, 0.16 \text{ GeV})$  261 tem size R to get the dip behavior of kurtosis. Fig.2 shows  $_{224}$  in this work.  $\Delta T$  and  $\Delta \mu$  are the corresponding widths  $_{262}$  the second-order susceptibility within a finite system as a of the critical region,  $\Delta h$  and  $\Delta r$  are the ones in the Ising 263 function of the radius of the system, with different correlations 226 model. These are non-universal parameters and are set as 264 tion lengths  $\xi$ . On can see that  $\chi_2$  increases monotonically  $\Delta T = T_c/8, \Delta \mu = 0.1 \text{ GeV}, \Delta r = (5/3)^{3/4}, \Delta h = 1 \text{ in } 265 \text{ with the increasing size } R.$  In the case of large correlation Ref. [29]. Through the mapping, Eq.(14) and Eq. (15), the 266 length  $\xi = 5.0$  fm,  $\chi_2$  strongly depends on the size, especially 229 net-baryon susceptibilities on the QCD phase diagram  $(T, \mu)$  267  $R \ll \xi$ , indicating the acceptance dependence of the critical  $_{230}$  are constructed from the ones on the (r, h) plane. And there- $_{268}$  fluctuations in experiments. On the other hand, if the system fore the coupling constants can be obtained in Eq. (11).

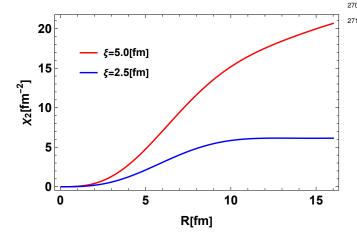


Fig. 2. (Color online) Second order baryon susceptibility  $\chi_2$  as a function of the radius of the coordinate space R. Different colors represent the input correlation length  $\xi = 2.5$  fm and 5 fm.

This work is dedicated to understanding the sign of the 233 kurtosis in the dynamics of the conserved net-baryon near the QCD critical point and the coupling constants are constructed by mapping from the 3D Ising model as in Refs. [26– 29]. Fig.1 shows the coupling constants with the tempera-236 ture T=0.138 GeV, below the phase transition curve. The fourth-order net-baryon susceptibility constructed from the Ising model has a small negative value at the crossover side (small  $\mu$ ), and becomes positive at the first-order side (large  $\mu$ ). As expected, the coupling constant  $\sqrt{K/m} \equiv \xi$  has a peak close to the critical chemical potential  $\mu_c=0.16$  GeV. As the constants plotted with the temperature  $T < T_c$ ,  $\lambda_3$  and  $\lambda_4$  have negative and positive values, respectively.

The second-order (4) and fourth-order (9) susceptibilities within the finite system are evaluated with the Monte-Carlo integration algorithm. Since the knowledge of the diffusion constant D and surface tension K near the QCD critical point is limited, they are set as  $D = 1 \text{ fm}^{-1}$  and  $K = 1 \text{ fm}^4$ , the evolution time t is chosen as t=10 fm. These are treated as free parameters in this work. As shown in Eq. (7), the dynamical factor  $\exp[-Dtp_i^2(Kp_i^2+m^2)]$  is introduced merely to mimic the dynamical effects in the linearized limit [40]. It is far from realistic dynamical critical fluctuations, which 255 requires full simulation of the dynamical evolution equa-256 tion [26–29]. The effect of this dynamical factor in this con-257 text is suppression of the magnitude of correlation function 258  $D_{ij}$ . As will be shown below, the sign of  $\kappa\sigma^2$  is determined

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221 not the absolute value of T and  $\mu$ . Thus, the location of QCD 259 by the magnitude of  $D_{ij}$  in this model. Different values of D 269 is much larger than the correlation length (e.g.,  $\xi = 2.5$  fm),  $\chi_2$  approaches to a constant value when the size is sufficiently 271 large.

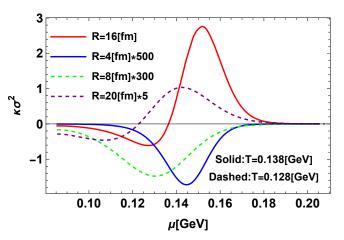


Fig. 3. (Color online) Kurtosis of the net-baryon  $\kappa \sigma^2$  within finite system near the QCD critical point. Different colors correspond to the ones with the radius of the coordinate space R=4,8,16,20fm, respectively. Solid curves are obtained with a temperature (T = 0.138 GeV) closer to critical temperature  $T_c$ , and the dashed with temperature (T = 0.128 GeV) further away from  $T_c$ . The factor after unit means the kurtosis has been multiplied for illustrative purposes (e.g., blue curve corresponds to  $500\kappa\sigma^2$ ).

Fig.3 presents the kurtosis  $\kappa \sigma^2$  of the net-baryon within 273 a finite system near the QCD critical point<sup>3</sup>. In the limit of <sup>274</sup> large system (e.g., R=16 fm in Fig.3),  $\kappa\sigma^2$  behaves non-275 monotonically as a function of the baryon chemical potential  $\mu$  and presents a negative value at crossover side (small  $\mu$ ) and <sup>277</sup> a positive value at first-order side (large  $\mu$ ). This is consistent 278 with the one in an ideal system with infinite large system [14], which can be seen in Eq.(8) that the second order susceptibility approaches to the ideal case  $\chi_2 \to \xi^2$ . On the other hand, 281  $\kappa \sigma^2$  within a finite system (e.g., R = 4 fm in Fig.3) becomes 282 negative and presents a dip behavior near the critical point. 283 As pointed out in Fig.2, the correlation  $D_{ij}$  or the suscepti-284 bility strongly depends on the size of the system and has a 285 small value when the system is small. As shown in Eq.(10), 286 the fourth-order coupling term with  $\lambda_4$  presents a negative

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Note that Fig.3 only shows the kurtosis with temperature below  $T_c$ , since the kurtosis above  $T_c$  behave similarly as the ones below  $T_c$  because of the symmetry of kurtosis in terms of phase transition curve.

287 contribution with four terms of correlators  $D_{ij}$ , and the third-330 transition. In the simulation of the dynamics for the con-288 order coupling term with  $\lambda_3$  contributes positively with five 331 served net-baryon density near the QCD critical point, it 289 correlators  $D_{ij}$ s. In the case of a small magnitude of corre- 332 was found that the kurtosis of net-baryon is typically neg-290 lator  $D_{ij}$ , the fourth-order coupling term with  $\lambda_4$  dominates 333 ative [26–29]. To understand the negative kurtosis in conand the four-point correlation functions  $\langle n_B^4 \rangle$  can be negative, 334 served dynamical models, this work focuses on the sign of which results in the negative  $\kappa \sigma^2$  near the QCD critical point. 335 kurtosis obtained within a finite system, which corresponds In addition, Fig. 3 also shows the system further away from the 336 to only part of the system being detected. It was found that critical point ( $T_c = 0.145 \text{ GeV}$ ) with temperature T = 0.128 337 the susceptibility is proportional to the increasing size of the GeV. Comparing the case with T=0.138 GeV, the critical 338 detected system, and the magnitude of the second-order corsignal is weaker and the magnitude of  $D_{ij}$  is smaller. The 339 relation function  $D_{ij}$  is small when the scale of the system is magnitude of  $\kappa\sigma^2$  is smaller (purple curve) and it is easier to 340 much smaller than the correlation length. This property, sois still possible to flip the sign of kurtosis by tuning the system 342 bution from the fourth-order coupling term  $\lambda_4$  (proportional size R even with different strengths of the critical signal.

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by a factor of 500 for illustrative purposes, which is a rela- 345 term with  $\lambda_3$  (proportional to  $\sim D_{ij}^5$ ) in  $\chi_4$  has a positive tively small value compared with the case of R=16 fm. It is  $_{346}$  contribution that is much smaller than the term with  $\lambda_4$ . In notable that the model employed in this work is an ideal sys- 347 the dynamical models of conserved net-baryon, the kurtosis tem, and the quantitative magnitude of the 'dip' in the small 348 is obtained only with part of the system, this finite number system size requires more realistic modeling in heavy-ion col- 349 of particles be detected and the corresponding kurtosis can lisions. QGP fireball created in relativistic heavy-ion colli- 350 behave with a dip near the critical point, instead of a peak. sions is a fast expanding and finite size system, and several 351 factors contribute to the final observables of the QCD critical 352 kurtosis within the static system without considering the dypoint. It is typically believed that the dynamical effects ( $\sim \xi^z$ , 353 namical modeling in a realistic experiment context. Based on point) induced by the expanding effects dominate over the fi- 355 on hydrodynamic model [26–29] or transport model [47– 313 nite size effects (finite size of fireball). This motives the study 356 52]), the realistic finite size of the QGP fireball as well as of the dynamical modeling near the QCD critical point in rel- 357 the finite detector acceptance window requires to be properly ativistic heavy-ion collisions [30-35]. However, only part as taken into account in the future study of higher order netthe finite acceptance window of the detector in experiments. 360 can also performed with other possible observable of critical The net-proton multiplicity fluctuations at the Beam Energy 361 point, such light-nuclei yield ratio [53–56]. 319 Scan phase I already shown the acceptance dependence and 320 the fluctuations with a small acceptance window deviate from the ones with a larger acceptance window [43]. Therefore, the comprehensive dynamical modeling of the critical fluctua-323 tions with the realistic detector acceptance window as well as 324 the finite size of the QGP fireball is essential for the compar-325 ison with the experiment measurement in the coming Beam Energy Scan phase II.

### IV. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

In summary, the sign of the higher-order multiplicity fluc-329 tuations plays an important role in exploring the QCD phase 367 where the detailed expression of the first term is

achieve the negative kurtosis (R=8 fm). This means that it 341 called acceptance dependence, results in the negative contri-343 to  $\sim D_{ij}^4$ ) dominates in fourth-order susceptibility  $\chi_4$  when Note that  $\kappa\sigma^2$  with R=4 fm in Fig. 3 has been multiplied 344 the detected system size is small. On the other hand, another

This work focuses on the finite size effects on the sign of where the dynamical critical exponent  $z\sim 3$  for QCD critical  $_{354}$  the dynamical model near the QCD critical point (e.g., based of the system contributes to the final observables considering 359 proton multiplicity fluctuations. In addition, such analysis

# Appendix A: Expression of spatial average of four-point correlation function (10)

This appendix shows the spatial average of the four-point 365 correlation function (10):

$$\langle n_B^4 \rangle = V^{-4} \int_V \prod_{i=1}^4 d^3 x_i \langle n_B(x_1) n_B(x_2) n_B(x_3) n_B(x_4) \rangle. \tag{A1}$$

$$-6\lambda_4 \frac{T^3}{V^4} \int d^3z \int \prod_{i=1}^4 d^3x_i D_{zi}$$

$$= -6\left(\frac{4}{\pi}\right)^3 \frac{\lambda_4 T^3}{V^4} \frac{1}{K^4} \int_0^R dz z^{-2} \int \prod_{i=1}^4 \left[ dp_i \sin(p_i z) (\sin(p_i R) - p_i R \cos(p_i R)) \frac{\exp[-Dt p_i^2 (K p_i^2 + m^2)]}{p_i^2 (p_i^2 + m^2/K)} \right],$$

$$12\lambda_{3}^{2} \frac{T^{3}}{V^{4}} \int d^{3}u d^{3}v \int \left[d^{3}x_{i}\right] D_{u1} D_{u1} D_{v3} D_{v4} D_{uv}$$

$$= 6\left(\frac{4}{\pi}\right)^{4} \frac{\lambda_{3}^{2} T^{3}}{V^{4}} \frac{1}{K^{5}} \int dp_{5} \frac{\exp\left[-Dt p_{i}^{2}(K p_{i}^{2} + m^{2})\right]}{p_{5}^{2} + m^{2}/K} \int \prod_{i=1}^{4} \left[dp_{i}(\sin(p_{i}R) - p_{i}R\cos(p_{i}R)) \frac{\exp\left[-Dt p_{i}^{2}(K p_{i}^{2} + m^{2})\right]}{p_{i}^{2}(p_{i}^{2} + m^{2}/K)}\right]$$

$$\times \int_{0}^{R} \frac{du dv}{uv} \sin(p_{1}u) \sin(p_{2}u) \sin(p_{3}v) \sin(p_{4}v) \sin(p_{5}u) \sin(p_{5}v).$$

371 The above integrations can not be performed analytically and 372 are evaluated numerically with the Monte Carlo algorithm.

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